

**SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATION**  
Fundamentals of Communication  
COMM 1310.W01

**Instructor:** Mr. Jay Sawyer  
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**On Line Class Time & Day**

**Textbook (Required):** Human Communication seventh or sixth edition, Pearson, Nelson, Titsworth & Harter. McGraw-Hill.

**Course Description**

This class is designed to introduce students to major areas in the study of communication focusing on theory and practice of speech communication behavior in interpersonal, small group and public communication situations. **This course meets the oral communications requirement.**

**Program Learning Outcomes**

This course is designed to meet one or more of the program learning outcomes applied to all Communication majors:

The graduating student will demonstrate:

1. competency for appropriate oral communication in public presentations.
2. competency for appropriate use of presentation software – specifically power point.
3. the ability to analyze arguments including identification of the major elements of the argument such as claims, warrants, data and backing
4. competency in appropriate discipline specific written communication.
5. the ability to apply communication theory to the analysis of communication situations.
6. competency in the use of media technology including video, audio and web technologies.
7. general knowledge of communication concepts and terminology

**Course Objectives**

- A.** The student will recognize differences between vernacular and academic approaches to communication and will be able to apply theories of perception, the self, culture, language, nonverbal and group communication to real life situations.
- B.** The student will understand the basics of creating a speech and successfully presented this speech in a classroom situation.

## Course Philosophy

Learning is an **active** process in which we all participate. This class is a hands-on, active learning experience. Viewing learning as an active process implies several significant distinctions.

1. An active process suggests the importance of **understanding and experiencing** ideas as they relate to our own lives, rather than just remembering a list of facts.
2. Being **prepared** for class is a commitment that is necessary from each of us. Preparation includes reading and reflecting on the assigned chapters prior to the class period as well as completion of all course assignments.
3. Class lectures and discussions contribute to the learning process, thus **attendance and participation** in all class activities is essential to deriving full benefit from this course.

## Attendance Policy

By enrolling in this course students agree to the following:

- 1) The course week will run Monday through Sunday.
- 2) Posts must be made to the Discussion Board by Thursday at midnight. Posts must be 200 words minimum.
- 3) Responses to a minimum of two posts must be made by Sunday at midnight. Responses must be 50 words minimum.
- 4) Quizzes must be taken by Sunday at midnight.
- 5) Students will demonstrate appropriate online behavior.

## ADA Needs

It is Sul Ross University policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. If you would like to request such accommodations because of a physical, mental, or learning disability, please contact the ADA coordinator for Program Accessibility located in BAB 206 or call 837-8203.

*Distance Education Statement:* Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should submit online assignments through Blackboard or SRSU email, which require secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. ***[If the course requires students to take proctored exams or to purchase additional software or equipment, please describe those requirements here.]*** The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

**Grading:** Course grades will be based on a 1125 - point scale, allocated as follows:  
The assignments are tentative and may change at the discretion of the instructor. This could also change the grade distribution.

Chapter exams (2)	200 points
Communication Definition	25 points
Discussion Board (6 at 50 points each)	300 points
Self-Introduction (Gadget) Speech	50 points
Informative Speech General Outline*	50 points
Informative Speech - Full / Annotated Outline*	100 points
Delivery of Informative Speech*	100 points
Persuasive Speech General Outline*	50 points
Persuasive Speech - Full / Annotated Outline*	100 points
Delivery of Persuasive Speech *	100 points
Persuasive Goal Worksheet	<u>50 points</u>
Total	1125 Points

### **Assignments**

Assignments will be due on the date assigned. Work that is turned in one day late will be penalized 10%. Work that is turned in two days late will be penalized 10%. It will not be accepted after that.

### **Chapter Exams**

Your exams/quizzes will be over the chapters listed. For the exams a study guide will be provided. The exams/quizzes will be made up of: true-false, multiple choice, matching and short answer questions.

**\*If you do not participate in the three (3) main speeches you cannot pass this class. The speeches will be presented on the week scheduled. If you do not present on the presentation week your delivery grade will be lowered by 10 points for the first week and 10 points for the second week.**

**Please inform me about online attendance issues as soon as you can.**

### **Self-Introduction (Gadget) Speech**

In this speech you will be introduced to the outline format we use for a speech. You will present a speech on a subject you know a great deal about—yourself!

### **Informative Speech**

The subject of this speech should be something that you are interested in and familiar with. There are several graded components to this assignment. You will be graded on: the oral presentation of the speech, the written sentence outline and the rough draft.

## **Persuasive Speech**

This will be a persuasive presentation. You will try to persuade the instructor and class to take action on a subject. There are several graded components to this assignment. You will be graded on: the oral presentation of the speech, the written sentence outline and the rough draft.

### Weekly Schedule

This schedule could change at discretion of professor

#### Week

Week 1	Due
Read Syllabus	Friday
Participate in the Discussion Comm. Def.	Post Sunday
Week 2	Due
Read Ch.1 and Power Points	Thursday
Participate in the Discussion Ch. 1	Post Sunday
Week 3	Due
Read Ch.2 and Power Points	Thursday
Participate in the Discussion Ch. 2	Post Sunday
Week 4	Due
Speech Outline	Thursday
Self-Introduction (Gadget) Speech	Post Sunday
Week 5	Due
Read Ch.3 and Power Points	Thursday
Participate in the Discussion Ch. 3	Post Sunday
Week 6	Due
Read Ch.4 and Power Points	Thursday
Participate in the Discussion Ch. 4	Post Sunday
Week 7	Due
Read Ch.5 and Power Points	Thursday
Participate in the Discussion Ch. 5	Post Sunday
Week 8	Due
Review and Exam 1	Sunday
Week 9	Due
Speech Outline	Thursday
Self-Introduction (Gadget) Speech	Sunday
Week 10	Due
Read Ch. 10 and Power Points	Sunday
Inform. Speech Topic & Research	Sunday

Week 11	Due
Read Ch. 11 and Power Points	Thursday
Inform. Speech Rough Draft	Sunday
Week 12	Due
Read Ch. 13 and Power Points	Thursday
Inform. Speech Final Draft	Thursday
Presentation	Sunday
Week 13- 15	Due
Week 14 Thanksgiving Wed. – Sun.	
Read Ch. 10, 11 and Power Points	
Persuasive Speech Topic & Research and Outline	by Dec. 4
Week 16 Finals week	Due
Persuasive Speech presentation	Tuesday Dec. 6